

Case 2441***Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859 (Aves, Paradisaeidae): proposed confirmation as the correct spelling**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the confirmation of the spelling of both the generic and specific names in the binomen *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859 (Wallace's Standard Wing Bird of Paradise), although the name was first given (in an account of a meeting) in the form *Semeioptera wallacei* Gray, 1859.

1. The name *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859 was based on a specimen described by G. R. Gray at a meeting of the Zoological Society of London on 22 March 1859.

2. McAlpine (1979, p. 109) has presented evidence that an article in the *Literary Gazette* for the 26 March 1859 (Gray, 1859a) [not seen by me] included Gray's description from the meeting and was published before the proceedings of the meeting. McAlpine gives the spelling in the *Literary Gazette* as *Semeioptera* for the subgenus (it was originally described in the genus *Paradisaea*) and *Wallacei* for the species.

3. In *Ibis* for April 1859 (Gray, 1859b) the naming at the Zoological Society meeting is referred to and the *Literary Gazette* article is quoted. Here, in both cases, the spelling is *Semioptera wallacii*.

4. As far as I have been able to determine, the spelling *Semeioptera* has been used only once (by Wood, 1862, p. 72) in the zoological literature in the 129 years since it appeared in the *Literary Gazette*. The spellings *wallacei*, *wallacii* and *wallaceii* have all been used in various publications. I recommend that *Semioptera wallacii* be conserved in accordance with established usage and with Gray's original intent, as he published this name in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* (1859c, p. 130).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to confirm that the spelling of the name *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859, is correct, despite the prior publication of the spelling *Semeioptera Wallacei*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Semioptera* Gray, 1859 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859, spelling confirmed in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *wallacii* Gray, 1859, as published in the binomen *Paradisaea (Semioptera) wallacii* (specific name of the type species of *Semioptera* Gray, 1859), spelling confirmed in (1) above;
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Semeioptera* Gray, 1859 ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Semioptera* Gray, 1859;

- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *wallacei* Gray, 1859, as published in the binomen *Paradisaea (Semeioptera) wallacei* and as ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *wallacii*.

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References

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